



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): HONG, Jun-Il.

Examiner: ZHOU, Ting

Serial No.: 10/038,312

Group Art Unit: 2173

Filed: November 9, 2001

Docket: 678-625

For: **METHOD OF PROVIDING USER INTERFACE IN A PORTABLE TERMINAL**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

TRANSMITTAL OF APPELLANT'S BRIEF ON APPEAL

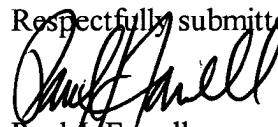
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Respectfully submitted,

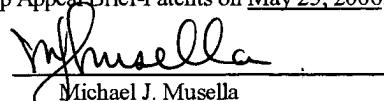

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Dated: May 23, 2006


Michael J. Musella

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

APPLICANT(S): HONG, Jun-Il

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APPEAL BRIEF

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Samsung Electronics Co, Ltd, the assignee of the subject application, having an office at 416, Maetan-dong, Yeongtong-gu, Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

To the best of Appellant's knowledge and belief, there are no currently pending related appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (a)

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Dated: May 23, 2006


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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Original Claims 1-5 were filed on November 9, 2001. Claims 1-5 were amended in an Amendment filed February 24, 2005. Claims 1-5 were amended in an Amendment filed September 15, 2005. Thus, Claims 1-5, as amended in the September 15, 2005 Amendment, are pending in the Appeal. Claims 1-5 are in independent form. For the purposes of this Appeal, Claims 1-3 stand or fall together, Claim 4 and Claim 5 stand alone.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Thus, the Appendix to this Appeal Brief includes Claims 1-5, of which the status is indicated as "Previously Presented".

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The invention as recited in Claim 1 relates to a method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual state indicator in a portable terminal displaying a plurality of individual state indicators.

The state indicators indicate state changes.

One of the plurality of functions is registered related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs.

The state representation of the individual state indicator is altered.

The registered function is invoked upon receipt of a user input for designating the individual state indicator.

The invention as recited in Claim 2 relates to a method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual state indicator in a portable terminal displaying a plurality of individual state indicators.

The state indicators indicate state changes.

One of the plurality of functions is registered related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs.

The state representation of the individual state indicator is altered.

The coordinates of a touch screen input are determined whether to indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen input.

The registered function is invoked when the coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator.

The invention as recited in Claim 3 relates to a method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual state indicator in a portable terminal displaying the individual state indicator.

The state indicator indicates a state change.

One of the plurality of functions is registered related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs.

The state representation of the individual state indicator is altered.

A cursor or an input focus is determined whether to be positioned over a representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of a user button input.

The registered function is invoked when the cursor or input focus is positioned over the representation area of the individual state indicator.

The invention as recited in Claim 4 relates to a method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual message state indicator indicating message arrival in a portable terminal where the individual state indicator is displayed on a screen of a touch screen input/output device when the message arrives.

An individual message reading function of the plurality of functions is registered related to the message state indicator when the message arrives.

The alteration of the representation of the individual message state indicator is displayed.

Coordinates of a touch screen input are determined whether to indicate a representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen input.

The message reading function is invoked when the coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator.

The invention as recited in Claim 5 relates to a method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual alarm state indicator indicating alarm setting in a portable terminal where the individual state indicator is displayed on a screen of a touch screen input/output device when an alarm is set.

An alarm function of the plurality of functions is registered related to the individual alarm state indicator when the alarm is set.

The alteration of the representation of the individual alarm state indicator is displayed.

Coordinates of a touch screen input are determined whether to indicate a representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen input.

The alarm function is invoked when the coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator.

GROUND FOR REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are rendered obvious over U.S. Patent 5,898,432 to Pinard (Pinard) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,866 to Horwitz et al. (Horwitz).

ARGUMENT

1. Independent Claim 1 is not rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz

Independent Claim 1 was said to be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.¹ Claim 1 relates to changing the function of a state indicator.² State indicators are unique images

¹ See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at page 2.

² See Specification at Summary of the Invention at page 3, lines 21-26.

used to display information about an operation state.³ The function change is based the occurrence of a change in the operation state.⁴ The function change is a two-step process: (1) registering one of a plurality of functions with the state indicator⁵, and (2) altering the state representation of the state indicator.⁶ The registered function is invoked upon receipt of a user input directed to the state indicator.

Pinard discloses an animated cursor that changes form.⁷

Horwitz discloses a computerized program checking system for organizations, where a flashing icon is displayed upon receipt of an alarm, and the alarm can be responded to upon “double clicking” the icon.⁸ A particular, preset and non-changeable function (responding to the alarm) is associated with the displayed icon.

1A. Claim 1 registers one of a plurality of functions to a state indicator while Pinard discloses only changing the form of an icon and Horwitz discloses only displaying an icon upon the occurrence of an event

Claim 1 of the present application recites that a plurality of functions are related to individual state indicators. One of a plurality of functions is registered to the individual state indicator upon the occurrence of a current state change.

The Examiner states that Pinard discloses this limitation.⁹ As illustrated in FIGs. 2-5, the icon of Pinard merely changes in form.¹⁰ Initially, an arrow icon is displayed.¹¹ The function of the arrow icon is that of a cursor. When a telephone call is received, the cursor changes form to a telephone set.¹² The cursor still functions as a cursor. When an e-mail message is waiting, the

3 See Specification at page 1, lines 19-24. Some examples of state indicators include an RSSI (Received Signal Strength Indicator), alarm setting, arrival of an SMS (Short Message Service) message, a battery state, and call reservation setting. Id. at page 1, lines 21-24.

4 The change in the operation state is referred to herein and in the specification as a state change, which is not to be confused with a function change.

5 Registration of a function is a process that associates a functional task operation module with a state indicator. See Specification at page 7, lines 11-15.

6 A state representation is the operation state that is associated with a state indicator.

7 See Pinard at Abstract.

8 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 5-15.

9 See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at page 2.

10 See Pinard at col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 16.

11 See Pinard at FIG. 2 and col. 3, lines 64-65.

12 See Pinard at FIG. 3 and col. 4, lines 1-7.

cursor changes form to a letter.¹³ The cursor still functions as a cursor. When a fax message is received, the cursor changes form to a sheet of paper.¹⁴ The cursor still functions as a cursor. Pinard is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, registering one of a plurality of functions with a state indicator is not disclosed by Pinard.

In addition, Horwitz displays an icon indicating the occurrence of an alarm.¹⁵ The icon has but one function associated with it, responding to the alarm.¹⁶ Horwitz is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, registering one of a plurality of functions with a state indicator is not disclosed by Horwitz.

Since neither Pinard nor Horwitz, nor any combination thereof, disclose the recitation of Claim 1 of the present application, of registering one of the plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs, which is also recited in Claims 2 and 3, Claims 1-3 cannot be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.

1B. The state representation of the individual state indicator of Claim 1 is altered, while Pinard discloses only changing the form of an icon and Horwitz discloses only displaying an icon upon the occurrence of an event

Claim 1 of the present application recites altering the state representation of the individual state indicator. After one of the plurality of functions is registered to the individual state indicator, the function of the state indicator is then changed. This process is recited as altering the state representation of the individual state indicator.

The Examiner states that Pinard discloses this limitation.¹⁷ As illustrated in FIGs. 2-5, the icon of Pinard merely changes in form.¹⁸ Pinard is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, altering the state representation of the individual state indicator is not disclosed by Pinard.

13 See Pinard at FIG. 4 and col. 4, lines 11-13.

14 See Pinard at FIG. 5 and col. 4, lines 13-15.

15 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 6-9.

16 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 11-12.

17 See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at page 2.

18 See Pinard at col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 16. This process of Pinard is described above in detail in Section 1A.

In addition, Horwitz displays an icon indicating the occurrence of an alarm.¹⁹ The icon has but one function associated with it, responding to the alarm.²⁰ Horwitz is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, altering the state representation of the individual state indicator is not disclosed by Horwitz.

Since neither Pinard nor Horwitz, nor any combination thereof, disclose this recitation of Claim 1 of the present application, of altering the state representation of the individual state indicator, which is also recited in Claims 2 and 3, Claims 1-3 cannot be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.

1C. In Claim 1, the registered function is invoked upon receipt of a user input, while Pinard discloses only changing the form of an icon and Horwitz discloses performing the preset function

Claim 1 of the present application recites invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user input.

The Examiner states that Horwitz discloses this limitation.²¹ Horwitz displays an icon indicating the occurrence of an alarm.²² The icon has but one function associated with it, responding to the alarm.²³ Although Horwitz has a function associated with an icon, Horwitz does not register functions as recited in Claim 1, and therefore Horwitz cannot invoke a registered function. Therefore, invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user input is not disclosed by Horwitz.

Further, as illustrated in FIGs. 2-5, the icon of Pinard merely changes in form.²⁴ Pinard is silent as to registered functions or invoking a registered function. Therefore, invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user input is not disclosed by Pinard.

Since neither Pinard nor Horwitz, nor any combination thereof, disclose this recitation of Claim 1 of the present application, of invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user input, which is also recited in Claims 2 and 3, Claims 1-3 cannot be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.

19 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 6-9.

20 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 11-12.

21 See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at page 3.

22 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 6-9.

23 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 11-12.

24 See Pinard at col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 16. This process of Pinard is described above in detail in Section 1A.

2. Independent Claim 4 is not rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz

Independent Claim 4 was said to be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.²⁵

Claim 4, in a manner similar to that of Claims 1-3, relates to changing the function of a state indicator. Claim 4 is more specifically directed to a message state indicator. The function change is based the occurrence of a change in the operation state. The function change is a two-step process: (1) registering an individual message reading function, from a plurality of message reading functions, with the state indicator²⁶, and (2) altering the state representation of the message state indicator. The registered message reading function is invoked upon receipt of a user input directed to the message state indicator.

Pinard discloses an animated cursor that changes form.²⁷

Horwitz discloses a computerized program checking system for organizations, where a flashing icon is displayed upon receipt of an alarm, and the alarm can be responded to upon “double clicking” the icon.²⁸ A particular, preset and non-changeable function (responding to the alarm) is associated with the displayed icon.

2A. Claim 4 registers a message reading function to a message state indicator while Pinard discloses only changing the form of an icon and Horwitz discloses only displaying an icon upon the occurrence of an event

Claim 4 of the present application recites that a plurality of functions are related to individual message state indicators. A message reading function, from the plurality of message reading functions, is registered to the message state indicator when a message arrives.

The Examiner states that Pinard discloses this limitation.²⁹ As illustrated in FIGs. 2-5, the icon of Pinard merely changes in form.³⁰ Pinard is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, registering an individual message reading function of the plurality of functions related to the message state indicator when the message arrives is not disclosed by Pinard.

25 See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at page 2.

26 Again, registration of a function is a process that associates a functional task operation module with a state indicator. See Specification at page 7, lines 11-15.

27 See Pinard at Abstract.

28 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 5-15.

29 See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at page 6.

In addition, Horwitz displays an icon indicating the occurrence of an alarm.³¹ The icon has but one function associated with it, responding to the alarm.³² Horwitz is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, registering an individual message reading function of the plurality of functions related to the message state indicator when the message arrives is not disclosed by Horwitz.

Since neither Pinard nor Horwitz, nor any combination thereof, disclose this recitation of Claim 4 of the present application, of registering an individual message reading function of the plurality of functions related to the message state indicator when the message arrives, Claim 4 cannot be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.

2B. The representation of the message state indicator of Claim 4 is altered, while Pinard discloses only changing the form of an icon and Horwitz discloses only displaying an icon upon the occurrence of an event

Claim 4 of the present application recites displaying the alteration of the representation of the individual message state indicator.

The Examiner states that Pinard discloses this limitation.³³ As illustrated in FIGs. 2-5, the icon of Pinard merely changes in form.³⁴ Pinard is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, displaying the alteration of the representation of the individual message state indicator is not disclosed by Pinard.

In addition, Horwitz displays an icon indicating the occurrence of an alarm.³⁵ The icon has but one function associated with it, responding to the alarm.³⁶ Horwitz is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, displaying the alteration of the representation of the individual message state indicator is not disclosed by Horwitz.

Since neither Pinard nor Horwitz, nor any combination thereof, disclose this recitation of Claim 4 of the present application, of displaying the alteration of the representation of the individual message state indicator, Claim 4 cannot be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of

30 See Pinard at col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 16.

31 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 6-9.

32 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 11-12.

33 See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at pages 6-7.

34 See Pinard at col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 16.

35 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 6-9.

Horwitz.

3. Independent Claim 5 is not rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz

Independent Claim 5 was said to be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.³⁷

Claim 5, in a manner similar to that of Claims 1-4, relates to changing the function of a state indicator. Claim 5 is more specifically directed to an alarm state indicator. The function change is based the occurrence of a change in the operation state of an alarm. The function change is a two-step process: (1) registering an alarm function, from a plurality of alarm functions, with the state indicator³⁸, and (2) altering the state representation of the alarm state indicator. The registered alarm function is invoked upon receipt of a user input directed to the alarm state indicator.

Pinard discloses an animated cursor that changes form.³⁹

Horwitz discloses a computerized program checking system for organizations, where a flashing icon is displayed upon receipt of an alarm, and the alarm can be responded to upon “double clicking” the icon.⁴⁰ A particular, preset and non-changeable function (responding to the alarm) is associated with the displayed icon.

3A. Claim 5 registers an alarm function to an alarm state indicator while Pinard discloses only changing the form of an icon and Horwitz discloses only displaying an icon upon the occurrence of an event

Claim 5 of the present application recites that a plurality of functions are related to alarm state indicators. An alarm function, from the plurality of alarm functions, is registered to the alarm state indicator when an alarm is set.

The Examiner states that Pinard discloses this limitation.⁴¹ As illustrated in FIGs. 2-5, the icon of Pinard merely changes in form.⁴² Pinard is silent as to changing a function of an icon.

36 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 11-12.

37 See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at page 2.

38 Again, registration of a function is a process that associates a functional task operation module with a state indicator. See Specification at page 7, lines 11-15.

39 See Pinard at Abstract.

40 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 5-15.

41 See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at page 8.

42 See Pinard at col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 16.

Therefore, registering an alarm function of the plurality of functions related to the individual alarm state indicator when the alarm is set is not disclosed by Pinard.

In addition, Horwitz displays an icon indicating the occurrence of an alarm.⁴³ The icon has but one function associated with it, responding to the alarm.⁴⁴ Horwitz is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, registering an alarm function of the plurality of functions related to the individual alarm state indicator when the alarm is set is not disclosed by Horwitz.

Since neither Pinard nor Horwitz, nor any combination thereof, disclose this recitation of Claim 5 of the present application, of registering an alarm function of the plurality of functions related to the individual alarm state indicator when the alarm is set, Claim 5 cannot be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.

3B. The representation of the alarm state indicator of Claim 5 is altered, while Pinard discloses only changing the form of an icon and Horwitz discloses only displaying an icon upon the occurrence of an event

Claim 5 of the present application recites splaying the alteration of the representation of the individual alarm state indicator.

The Examiner states that Pinard discloses this limitation.⁴⁵ As illustrated in FIGs. 2-5, the icon of Pinard merely changes in form.⁴⁶ Pinard is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, splaying the alteration of the representation of the individual alarm state indicator is not disclosed by Pinard.

In addition, Horwitz displays an icon indicating the occurrence of an alarm.⁴⁷ The icon has but one function associated with it, responding to the alarm.⁴⁸ Horwitz is silent as to changing a function of an icon. Therefore, splaying the alteration of the representation of the individual alarm state indicator is not disclosed by Horwitz.

Since neither Pinard nor Horwitz, nor any combination thereof, disclose this recitation of

43 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 6-9.

44 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 11-12.

45 See Office Action dated November 25, 2005 at pages 8.

46 See Pinard at col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 16.

47 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 6-9.

48 See Horwitz at col. 21, lines 11-12.

Claim 5 of the present application, of splaying the alteration of the representation of the individual alarm state indicator, Claim 5 cannot be rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.

CONCLUSION

As the Examiner has failed to make out a prima facie case for an obviousness rejection, the rejection of Claims 1-5 must be reversed.

It is well settled that in order for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to be appropriate, the claimed invention must be shown to be obvious in view of the prior art as a whole. A claim may be found to be obvious if it is first shown that all of the recitations of a claim are taught in the prior art or are suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 985, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580, 583 (C.C.P.A. 1974), cited in M.P.E.P. §2143.03.

The Examiner has failed to show that all of the recitations of Claims 1-5 are taught or suggested by the either Pinard or Horwitz or the combination thereof. Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to make out a prima facie case for an obviousness rejection.

Independent Claims 1-5 are not rendered unpatentable by either Pinard or Horwitz or the combination thereof. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-5 must be reversed.

Dated: May 23, 2006

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual state indicator in a portable terminal displaying a plurality of individual state indicators, which indicates a state change, the method comprising the steps of:

registering one of the plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs;

altering the state representation of the individual state indicator; and

invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user input for designating the individual state indicator.

2. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual state indicator in a portable terminal displaying a plurality of individual state indicators, which indicates a state change, the method comprising the steps of:

registering one of the plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs;

altering the state representation of the individual state indicator;

determining whether the coordinates of a touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen input; and

invoking the registered function when the coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator.

3. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual state indicator in a portable terminal displaying the individual state indicator, which indicates a state change, the method comprising the steps of:

registering one of the plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs;

altering the state representation of the individual state indicator;
determining whether a cursor or an input focus is positioned over a representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of a user button input; and
invoking the registered function when the cursor or input focus is positioned over the representation area of the individual state indicator.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual message state indicator indicating message arrival in a portable terminal where the individual state indicator is displayed on a screen of a touch screen input/output device when the message arrives, the method comprising the steps of:

registering an individual message reading function of the plurality of functions related to the message state indicator when the message arrives;

displaying the alteration of the representation of the individual message state indicator;

determining whether coordinates of a touch screen input indicate a representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen input; and

invoking the message reading function when the coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a user interface for invoking a plurality of functions related to an individual alarm state indicator indicating alarm setting in a portable terminal where the individual state indicator is displayed on a screen of a touch screen input/output device when an alarm is set, the method comprising the steps of:

registering an alarm function of the plurality of functions related to the individual alarm state indicator when the alarm is set;

displaying the alteration of the representation of the individual alarm state indicator;

determining whether coordinates of a touch screen input indicate a representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen input; and

invoking the alarm function when the coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no evidence submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.130, 1.131, 1.132 or entered by the Examiner and relied upon by Appellant.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no known decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of 37 C.F.R. 41.37.